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October 8, 2010

Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 8-C453  
445 12th St, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

MB  
Comcast/NBCU  
PV  
S  
1668

Dear Julius:

As a congressman who represents a district comprised of a majority of African American, Latino and Asian American constituents — including 80 percent of the population of Imperial County on the U.S.-Mexico border — I would like to share some concerns regarding the proposed merger of Comcast and NBC Universal.

Many of my constituents have contacted me in opposition to the Comcast/NBC Universal merger, including some affiliated with Mabuhay Alliance. Among their concerns are issues raised in a recent *New York Times* article published September 26, 2010, titled "Comcast Spends Big in Pressing for Merger," which details ways in which Comcast has allegedly attempted to improperly influence government approval for this merger.

The article notes that Comcast has already spent tens of millions of dollars to influence Congress, the Administration, and consumer groups, and has hired thirty separate lobbying firms to promote its interests. It is not unlikely that if all of Comcast's costs were taken into account, including internal office staff time and other expenses, that the total spent could exceed 100 million dollars.

In light of this large-scale effort, it is vitally important to ensure that government does its due diligence before determining whether the merger should receive approval. Although Congress has held at least three hearings on the proposed merger this year, the FCC has held just one in Chicago on July 13, at which only Commissioner Michael Copps was in attendance. I urge the FCC to hold

Julius Genachowski

October 8, 2010

Page 2

additional public hearings on this merger, and strongly encourage every member of the commission to attend them.

Additionally, it is troubling that the FCC does not yet have solid data that show the impact of the merger on employment, business contracts, and philanthropy by race, ethnicity, and gender; its impact on the growth of diverse minority-owned media companies and their ability to compete for an effective representation of our nation's 110 million minorities; or the merger's effect on changing negative stereotypes of minorities in media. These issues have been raised by the Congressional Black and Asian Pacific American Caucuses and consumer groups such as the Black Economic Council, the Latino Business Chamber of Greater Los Angeles, and Mabuhay Alliance, and they must be addressed before the Commission moves forward.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns, and I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

BF/te  
2554384



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 22, 2010

The Honorable Bob Filner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2428 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Filner:

Thank you for your follow-up letter regarding the Commission's review of the proposed joint venture between Comcast Corporation and the General Electric Company subsidiary, NBC Universal, Inc. (NBCU). I appreciate your interest in this important transaction. We will make your correspondence part of the record in the proceeding.

I agree that the Commission's analysis of the proposed Comcast-GE transaction must be thorough and allow sufficient time for the careful evaluation of all relevant issues, including the impact that the proposed transaction may have on diversity and minority participation in the communications industry. As you may know, the Commission established an extended comment period so that interested parties would have ample opportunity to raise issues concerning the potential public interest benefits and harms of the proposed Comcast-GE joint venture. A number of entities, including the Mabuhay Alliance, have filed comments and other information with the Commission regarding the potential harm that the combined company may have on the interests of minority communities. The Mabuhay Alliance also has met with Commission staff on several occasions to discuss their concerns and submitted testimony during a public forum conducted by the Commission to examine the proposed Comcast-GE transaction.

The Commission staff currently is reviewing the extensive record compiled in the proceeding, including all petitions and comments received from the public. Please be assured that the issues discussed in your letter will be considered carefully as part of the Commission's independent review of the proposed Comcast-GE transaction.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski", written over a horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski